2023 Report from the Corporation of Haverford College
2023.05.18

Dear Members of the Haverford Community:

We write to report on the Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Haverford College held in person and via Zoom on April 22, 2023. For a brief description of the Corporation, please refer to the addendum that follows this message.

Amy Taylor Brooks '92, Clerk of the Corporation, opened the meeting with a period of shared worship. She also invited Friends to hold in the light a current student who recently died, Nate Moore ’24, their family, and the Haverford community experiencing their loss. Amy invited people who are new to the Corporation to stand and be recognized. She also recognized people for whom this meeting marks their first time attending in person.

Minutes from the 23 April 2022 Annual Meeting and the 06 August 2022 Special Called meeting were approved.

Joyce Bylander and Matt Zisk spoke to the antiracism learning moment that had taken place earlier in the day, expressing appreciation for the quality of deep sharing from those who participated.

Corporation Treasurer and Vice President for Finance and Administration Nico Washington gave a brief introduction of her professional history culminating in her recent appointment to the role at Haverford, and shared an overview of the College’s sound financial position.

David Wertheimer '77, clerk of the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee, reviewed a written narrative and statistical overview describing this year’s nomination selection process and fielded questions.

The Corporation then approved the following nominations:

* 42 new and renewing Corporation members, listed in the attached report, included in the advance packet.
* Corporation officers: Amy Taylor Brooks '92, Clerk; Joy Y. Takahashi '87, Assistant Clerk; Zachary T. Dutton '10, Secretary
* New and renewing members of the Board of Managers: Rachel Melroy-Husser ‘02, Terry Nance, Jonathan (Mac) Gamse '93, Michael B. Kim '85, Beatrice Mitchell P ‘17, Sara Recktenwald '87, and Alex Robinson '96
* New and renewing members of the Corporation Advisory Committee: Laura Boyce, Sarah Derbew '09, Diane M. Mallery '84, Donna Mancini, and Terry Nance
* New and renewing members of the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee: Jamal Elliott '96, Lucius T. Outlaw, and David M. Wertheimer '77, Clerk
* For the first time, new members of the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee who are not members of the Corporation recommended by other Haverford community organizations: Willy Aguilar Montenegro '25, recommended by the Haverford Students Council; Georgia Davidis, recommended by the Staff Association Executive Committee; and Sang Cho '96, recommended by the Alumni Association Executive Committee.

Friends welcomed newly appointed Corporation Associates: Peter K. Gullace '22, William J. Harris-Braun '22, Alissa E. Vandenbark '22

Friends also expressed deep appreciation to the three members ending their service on the Board of Managers this year: Garry Jenkins '92, Jane Silber '85, Nancy Wolfson.

John M. Morse ‘73, Advisory Committee Clerk, reported on two different documents of which the advisory committee has been supporting the development: the guidance on meaningful representation, and the draft charge on the Standing Committee for Cultural and Structural Change. Friends approved the Standing Nominating Committee beginning to populate an eventual Standing Committee for Cultural and Structural Change, using the draft charge as a guide with one member standing aside.

For the first time in a number of years, because of COVID and the work of approving new bylaws, Friends convened in breakout groups by topic:

* Questions with Wendy Raymond
* Putting the Quaker & Special Collections to Work
* Environment and Sustainability at Haverford
* The CSC Standing Committee Charge in More Detail
* Sense of the Meeting
* Quakers and Indian Boarding Schools.

Friends reconvened as a whole for the purpose of worship sharing about our experiences in the breakouts groups and closing worship.

Respectfully,

Amy Taylor Brooks '92 Clerk

Joy Y. Takahashi '87, Assistant Clerk

Zachary T. Dutton '10, Secretary/Recording Clerk

John M. Morse '73, Advisory Committee Clerk

Wendy Raymond, President of the College

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The Corporation of Haverford College

The Corporation is a body of approximately two hundred persons who are members of the Religious Society of Friends (often referred to as Quakers) or who are friends of the College, alumni or past members of the Board of Managers and who exemplify what it means to be grounded in the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends. The Corporation holds legal title to the College’s assets and elects members and officers of the Corporation, members of the Board of Managers, and members of the Standing Nominating Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Corporation. The priorities of the Corporation are to fulfill the fiduciary responsibilities of ownership and to support the College in strengthening and enriching Haverford's Quaker character.

The Advisory Committee acts as a liaison between the Corporation and the College community. It meets several times a year with the President of the College to consult on matters that affect the Quaker character of Haverford. It makes recommendations to the President, the Corporation and/or other College entities regarding such matters, and it plans the agenda for Corporation meetings. The Advisory Committee comprises up to sixteen Corporation members. The President of the College, and the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Secretary of the Corporation serve as ex officio members.

Corporation meetings are grounded in Friends’ business practice, and the method of arriving at decisions is described in the Bylaws of the College as follows:

Traditionally, the Religious Society of Friends has used the term “sense of the meeting” to mean group decision-making guided and led by the Spirit of God. For purposes of, and as used in these Bylaws, the term “sense of the meeting” shall mean that all members of the group present have a shared awareness of where the group has been led and are in substantial unity, in the manner of Friends, to move forward with a decision, as discerned by the presiding clerk at a Corporation meeting or chair at a Board of Managers meeting, using Friends’ principles.